

# Human Relations News

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## MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

LEO P. CARLIN, MAYOR

An official agency created by the Newark Fair Practice Ordinance to carry out the State policy against discrimination based on race, color, creed or national origin.

Room 214, City Hall, Newark, Mitchell 3-6300, Ext. 281

Vol. 2 No. 2

A bi-monthly summary of facts and trends in human relations and civil rights

January 1958

### MAYOR AND COUNCIL TO BE HONORED

The members of the Municipal Council and Mayor Leo P. Carlin will be honored by the Citizens of Newark at the Annual Brotherhood Forum of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations to be held in the Council Chamber at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26th.

The Commission in its January meeting, unanimously voted to cite the Mayor and Council for their "fore-sight" in studying human relations patterns while planning for the New Newark. This interest in the human factor was given real meaning by their joint action in making Newark the first city in the United States to conduct a scientifically controlled survey of changing neighborhoods.

Algernon D. Black, leader of the Society for Ethical Culture in New York City and chairman of the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing will be the featured speaker. As Director of the international "Encampment for Citizenship", he will welcome all Newark's young adults who wish to apply for the Mayor's Commission scholarship to attend the Encampment this summer at Riverdale on the Hudson.

Miss Betty Harris and Miss Catherine Ledford of the Leaguers will be present to tell the scholarship applicants about their experiences at the six week summer sessions in 1956 and 1957.

An open forum question and answer period will be followed by a brief report to the community on the progress of the Survey of Newark's Changing Neighborhoods.

### Market Planning Corp. Describes Survey Of Changing Neighborhoods to Citizens

Market Planning Corp., an affiliate of McCann-Erickson, Inc., has been contracted by the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations to conduct the full scale survey of changing neighborhoods and population characteristics in the City of Newark. The study, which began in November, 1957, will be completed in December of this year.

At the last regular meeting of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, representatives of the Market Planning Corporation who are directing the study, presented their outline of the survey and clarified all questions on the approach of the Survey. They stated that, "The major goal of the Newark community study is to make a series of assessments of intergroup relations in Newark, as they are related to the size of the major groups involved, the stable or changing composition of various neighborhoods, and the beliefs

and feelings of the people of Newark about the different groups that constitute the city's population."

"This is to be a study of the general population rather than of the experts. It will make no distinctions between people who are concerned or unconcerned with group relations, or between people who are informed, uninformed, or misinformed."

"We will conduct interviews with a probability sample of 4,000 male and female heads of households throughout Newark. The attitudes and actions uncovered will constitute the reality in relation to which the expert can do his planning for the future."

"The first step in our procedure, separate from the exploration into attitudes, will be to ascertain the current population of the city and of the neighborhoods which have been delineated in advance by the Commission. We will extrapolate the survey results so as to learn the size of the major racial groups in all of Newark and in the various neighborhoods. Ethnic data, particularly in regard to residents of Puerto Rican origin will also be gathered and extrapolated."

"In addition to determining what recent changes have already occurred in the structure of Newark's neighborhoods, we will develop information upon which some predictions of probable changes might be based. For instance, neighborhoods from which white residents are planning to move will be located as well as neighborhoods, previously all-white, into which



Algernon D. Black

(Continued on Page 3, Column 2)

## PRESCHOOL MOTHERS DISCUSS RACE RELATIONS

Since early September, Dan Anthony and Walter Chambers have been meeting with groups of mothers in 8 Newark library branches. Discussions have run the gamut of community intergroup relations from the problem of Newark's changing neighborhoods to the question, "How can I rear my children to grow up free of prejudice"? The two photographs on this page indicate how the Roseville branch is attacking the problem. We see here a typical preschool group getting used to each other and their library. Below is the discussion group of the mothers meeting at the same library, which is one of the 8 groups organized by the staff of the Newark Public Library.

Participation in the preschool program is frequently the child's first social experience outside his home. Here he learns how to play with all other children in his own age group. It is an experience of getting to know and like your young neighbors before you have been taught to dislike them because of the difference in their religion or skin color.

While the children are learning the lessons of democracy, the easy way, their parents are altering some of their fixed attitudes the hard way, i.e., by honest informal group exposure of their positive and negative feelings toward their neighbors.

The high calibre of these mothers' groups their sincerity in tackling the delicate problem of race and religious prejudice bodes well for the future of intergroup relations in our city. The Public Library indeed deserves great commendation for inaugurating this meaningful program.



*"Getting to know you." A typical group of children at play at the Roseville Branch Library.*



*"From discussion often comes knowledge." A group of mothers exchange information through informal discussions on family and community problems.*

## NCCJ To Hold Annual Brotherhood Dinner

The Annual Brotherhood Awards Dinner of the New Jersey Region, National Conference of Christians and Jews, will be held on Thursday, February 20, 1958, at the Essex House in Newark. As in previous years, this occasion will climax Brotherhood Week activities in New Jersey as over 600 leading citizens gather for the presentation of Brotherhood Awards to three persons—Catholic, Protestant and Jew—who have made significant contributions toward the improvement of human relations in New Jersey.

The NCCJ has sponsored the nationwide observance of Brotherhood Week for the past 25 years.

Mr. H. Bruce Palmer, President,

Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, and Regional Co-Chairman of the National Conference, will preside at this dinner meeting and present the Annual Report for the New Jersey Region. In addition, a dramatic narrative presentation is planned which will highlight the work of the Conference over the past year. Narrator for this part of the program will be a well-known radio commentator, with local residents participating in short tableaux to illustrate specific Conference programs and projects.

Tickets for this dinner are available through the local office of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, 790 Broad Street, Newark 2, N. J.

### WANTED!

Young Adults 18-23 years of age  
Applications are now being  
accepted for a scholarship to  
attend the annual  
Encampment for Citizenship  
at Riverdale, N. Y.

June 29 - August 9, 1958

Any Newark resident who is interested may  
apply at the office of the Mayor's Commis-  
sion on Group Relations, Room 214, City  
Hall, MI 3-4300.

## RACE RELATIONS — 1957

by ROY WILKINS, Executive Secretary, NAACP

Three major developments on the race relations front in 1957 were of such significance as to overshadow all other events of the year in the continuing struggle to eliminate racial discrimination and segregation. They were (1) the enactment of the Civil Rights law, the first such statute to be passed by Congress in 82 years; (2) the use of United States troops to sustain a federal court decree ordering the admission of nine Negro children to the previously all-white Central High School of Little Rock, Ark.; and (3) the enactment of a New York City ordinance banning racial and religious discrimination in private housing, the first measure of that kind ever enacted into law in any American community.

There were, of course, other happenings during the year which had important bearings on the course of race relations throughout the country. Some of these were positive, contributing to the realization of the American goal of equal opportunity; others were negative, feeding the flames of racial strife.

However, the advances made in 1957 were encouraging. The Civil Rights Act empowered the federal government to intervene to protect the right to vote and set up machinery for the execution of this power. In addition, the law established a bipartisan Civil Rights Commission charged with the responsibility of investigating violations of the right to vote and of other civil rights.

When he sent troops into Little Rock to uphold a federal court order, President Eisenhower served notice that the Executive Branch of the government is prepared to sustain the federal judiciary in its desegregation orders. This was the administration's reply to the southern doctrine of interposition which, if acceded to, would have meant anarchy. While the need for such action was widely regretted, there was general recognition that the President had been goaded into taking the only stand he could by the intransigence of Gov. Orval Faubus of Arkansas. The Governor had placed troops of the Arkansas National Guard at Central High School to keep the Negro students out in defiance of the court order.

Housing has long been the most

(Continued on Page 4, Column 1)

## Market Planning Corp. Describes Survey Of Changing Neighborhoods to Citizens

(Continued from Page 1, Column 3)

Negroes plan to move. We will try to determine if this move-out is in any way related to changes in racial balance."

"In a fairly general way, we will ask how people feel about Newark and about their neighborhoods as places to live, and about their awareness of recent changes, in order to find how near the top of the mind racial issues or racial changes may lie."

In sum, the investigation will provide materials of the following kinds:

1. A racial census of Newark, by neighborhood, plus a census of Puerto Ricans.

2. The racial composition of Newark neighborhoods, the extent of recent change, the likelihood of change in the near future, and the relationships imminent change involving the white residents bear on the beliefs and apprehensions in regard to race.

3. Beliefs regarding the extent of racial "problems" held by each race and by Puerto Ricans.

4. The extent of felt discrimination among Negroes and Puerto Ricans, with particular but not exclusive ref-

erence to Community Services, and selected aspects of housing.

5. Attitudes of whites toward racial changes in neighborhoods.

The materials will be analyzed by neighborhood and/or by types of neighborhoods. As appropriate, findings in the attitudinal sections will be related to such factors as socio-economic background of respondents, ethnic background of white respondents, and education. The background characteristics and attitudes of those whites who are planning to move from Newark will also be analyzed separately.

During the months of January through mid-March, interviews will be conducted in households across the city. You, your family, relatives and friends are likely to be selected as a part of the 4,000 person sampling. You are requested to cooperate with the interviewers who will generally visit during the early evening hours. Please inform your friends and associates of this community survey and encourage their support. The success of this project is dependent upon the cooperation of all Newark citizens.

## Brotherhood Week — 1958

Within a few weeks, President Eisenhower will proclaim Brotherhood Week which begins on February 16th and ends on February 23rd. As soon as the Proclamation is released, many Governors of States and hundreds of our Nation's Mayors will follow suit in asking their constituents to observe the month of February and the week of Washington's Birthday in a rededication to the ideals expressed in our Constitution and our State Laws.

The purpose of these observances is to afford all citizens an opportunity to give

added meaning to our year-round fight to reduce prejudice and discrimination. Finally, Brotherhood Week is carried out to dramatize the concept of the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

All individuals and organizations wishing to arrange programs, procure speakers or show films during this month of February and throughout the rest of the year, may call upon any of the following organizations to aid them in planning Brotherhood Functions:

1. National Conference of Christians & Jews, 790 Broad Street, MI 2-6025 (Founders of Brotherhood Week).
2. American Jewish Committee, 45 Branford Place, MI 2-1633.
3. American Jewish Congress, 17 William Street, MA 3-7478.
4. Anti-Defamation League, 30 Clinton Street, MA 3-6241.
5. Division Against Discrimination, State Department of Education, 1100 Raymond Blvd., MA 4-1414.
6. Essex County Intergroup Council, 32 Central Avenue, MA 2-0707.
7. Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, Room 214, City Hall, MI 3-6300.
8. Urban League of Essex County, 58 Jones Street, MA 2-5331.

## Clinton Hill Crowding Worse, Group Warns

(Reprinted from Newark Evening News, Friday, January 18, 1958)

The Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council today reported increased overcrowding and blight in that section and said enforcement of the city's housing codes is "lagging far behind the rate at which violators are growing."

In an annual report issued by council officers and leaders, Mrs. Mary Robinson, Peshine Ave. branch chairman, declared:

"People are buying up houses and putting two and three families on a floor, all using the same bath and kitchen. The rents the people pay are very high—\$25 and \$35 a week."

Stanley B. Winters, council president, said illegal rooming houses are still in existence and increasing despite a 1956 Superior Court decision upholding the city's right to ban rooming houses under its zoning ordinance.

### Blames Bids

"To our knowledge," Winters continued, "not one illegal rooming house, not even one of the defendants in that case, has been asked to close."

Stanley Aronowitz, vice chairman of the Peshine Ave. branch, declared that a "fundamental cause of overcrowding in rooming houses at ex-

orbitant rentals to Negroes and other minority people in the existence of blatant discrimination against these people in private multiple dwellings."

In proposing the adoption of an anti-discrimination ordinance, Aronowitz said the racially integrated character of Clinton Hill can be preserved only by opening other sections of the city to Negroes who are being displaced by public housing and redevelopment projects in the Central Ward.

### Schools Crowded

The 13-page report, containing statements from seven council leaders, also cited overcrowded school class rooms and a need for middle income housing as community problems.

At a council board meeting last night, Robert C. Hoover, city planning officer, said the city will go ahead with some of the proposed improvements in its Clinton Hill urban renewal plan without waiting for federal approval of a pending city application for a renewal assistance. The council honored Hoover, who will resign Feb. 1, for his role in developing the renewal plan.

The Clinton Hill Council is one of the Associated Community Councils of Newark.

## SELECTED READING

Blustein, Albert P., & Ferguson, Clarence C., Jr. *Desegregation and the law: the meaning and effect of the school segregation cases, 1937*. Rutgers University. "An examination of background and significance of the Supreme Court decision concerning school segregation."

Dworkin, Martin S., editor. *Impact of Puerto Rican Migration on Governmental Services in New York City, 1957*. New York University Press. "Surveys the problems of housing, employment, welfare, educational and health services as a result of this migration."

Jahoda, Marie; Deutch, Morton; Cook, Stuart W. *Research Methods in Social Relations: With Special Reference to Prejudice, 1951*. Dryden Press. Part 1: Basic Processes. Part 2: Selected Techniques. "Part 1 deals consecutively with the major steps of a scientific inquiry into social relations, as well as with the interrelationships between the steps." Part II "deals in more technical detail with some specific methodological problems."

Hughes, Langston. *Simple Stakes A Claim, 1957*. Rinehart. "Simple, of Harlem, speaks his mind on housing, labor segregation and the general plight of the Negro."

Kaplan, William M. *Racial Factors and Urban Law Enforcement, 1957*. University of Pennsylvania. "Racial problems explored in Philadelphia police department. Study of the interaction between white police and Negro offenders, between Negro police and Negro offenders, and between Negro and white police."

Knox, Isaac. *Rabbi in America: the Story of Isaac M. Wise, 1957*. Little, Brown & Co. "The account of his life offers a perceptive insight into the development of American Judaism."

Lipson, Elyse. *W. Negro in the United States, 1957*. Van Nostrand. (An Anvil Original) "A short history of the American Negro."

Davis, Mae. *Jews at a Glance, 1957*. Hebrew Publishing Co. "114 intimate illustrated biographies of unusual Jewish men and women from the dawn of civilization to the present day."

## Race Relations — 1957

(Continued from Page 3, Column 1)

pressing problem confronting Negro citizens in urban centers. The limitation on the Negro's living space has sometimes been more severe in the North than in the South. This denial of freedom of residence has fostered de facto segregation in public schools and in other public facilities, even in states in which such segregation is legally banned. Accordingly, the New York City ordinance against discrimination in private housing is a measure of vital importance to every community in which a large number of Negroes reside.

Earlier legislation in New York and elsewhere had outlawed discrimination in publicly-aided housing. This has been helpful but it left the owners of the vast majority of dwellings free to refuse to sell or to rent to persons because of their race, religion or national origin. The new law in New York City was designed to meet this problem.

## COMMISSION SETS UP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Mayor's Commission, at its January meeting, voted unanimously to organize a Technical Advisory Committee to analyze the work of Market Planning Corporation in its Survey of Newark's Changing Neighborhoods.

The Commission decided that sociologists and psychologists from Rutgers, Seton Hall and Princeton would be asked to serve on this Committee along with the executives of local intergroup agencies, such as the NAACP, Urban League, National Conference of Christians and Jews, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress and Division Against Discrimination of the Department of Education.

The Committee's first job will be to analyze the interview questionnaires which will be answered by some 4,000 householders throughout the City of Newark. When this job is completed,

## TIPS ON BROTHERHOOD

There are many things that you can do to promote brotherhood. Of primary importance is your own attitude. Because of this, it is suggested that you:

1. Deal with people as individuals. Don't generalize about groups of people.
2. Don't blame others for your own faults and troubles; don't make others scapegoats for the problems of society.
3. Challenge prejudiced statements quietly with moral principles and facts.
4. Give your children good example by talking about and acting with people as individuals. Children pay more attention to actions than words.

they will advise the Commission in its procurement of additional funds from national foundations for additional research work in the field of Intergroup Relations.